period March'99 to July 2000. A total of 610 personnel, comprising 254 officers and 356 workmen have been recruited and trained for this project, who will be engaged in operation and maintenance of this refinery.

GAIL Pipeline in Karnataka

3006. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rupees 2000 crore pipeline of Gas authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) is coming up in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the gas supply will actually commence in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has signed a Gas Cooperation Agreement with the Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation to study the gas demand potential of Karnataka and the techno-economic feasibility of setting up a gas pipeline infrastructure for serving various end users in the States of Kerala and Karnataka by using the regassified liquefied natural gas from the proposed LNG terminal at Kochi, to be set up by Petronet LNG Limited. The pipeline may be 1100 Km. long and involve an investment of Rs. 2000 crores. The gas supplies are expected to commence in 2004-05.

Allotment of Kerosene to Kerala

3007. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of kerosene allotted to Kerala per month for meeting the requirements of the Out Board motors of traditional fishermen in Kerala;

(b) whether Government are aware that the allotted quantity of kerosene is insufficient to meet the actual requirement of fishermen in the State; and

(c) whether Government would consider to enhance the quantity of kerosene allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Kerosene is an allocated product and annual/monthly allocation is made by the Central Government to the States/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System. The

distribution of kerosene within the State is the responsibility of State Government. The monthly allocation of kerosene to the State of Kerala is 25816 M.T.

Requests are received for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. Kerosene is a deficit product in the country, and on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy, the distribution has to be judicious.

Seeking permission by Private Refiners to start their own Sale Outlets

3008. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private refiners submitted proposals seeking permission to start their own sale outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they would start petrol pumps in backward areas;

(d) whether Government would deregulate petroleum products before the announced schedule; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Government have permitted marketing of decontrolled products through private and joint sector. Marketing of kerosene and LPG is permitted through private and joint sector under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS).

The petroleum products under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) are marketed by public sector oil marketing companies only. These products are Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel, LPG(Domestic), SKO (PDS), Aviation Turbine Fuel.

Proposal for Direct Marketing right of the Petroleum Products

3009. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme of deregulation of petroleum products before 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;